



The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension
 College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

May 21, 2009

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #1

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending May 17th listed the crop as 40 percent planted which is slightly behind the 5 year average of 49 percent. Cotton planting is in full swing. Recent rains were welcomed by many, but a few areas need to dry out. Cool temperatures this week likely slowed development of emerged cotton. High winds delayed pesticide applications and may cause some sand blasting of seedlings in some fields.

INSECT SITUATION: Thrips are being observed at moderate to high numbers on emerged cotton; foliar sprays have been made on some fields. We have also received a few reports of cutworms and grasshoppers.

Cotton Scout Schools: Cotton insect scouting schools are annually held at various locations in Georgia. These programs offer basic information on cotton insects and scouting procedures and will serve as a review for experienced scouts and producers and as an introduction to cotton insect monitoring for new scouts. Program Agendas are found at the end of this newsletter.

Location	City	Date	Time	Contact for additional information
Tifton Campus Conference Center	Tifton GA	June 8, 2009	9:00 am -12:30pm	Debbie Rutland (229) 386-3424
Southeast Research and Education Center	Midville GA	June 18, 2009	9:00 am -12:30pm	Peyton Sapp (706) 554-2119

Thrips: Thrips populations have been moderate to heavy on April and early May planted cotton. This is typical as thrips infestations tend to be higher on early planted cotton compared with later planting dates. In addition to differences in thrips populations, early planted cotton generally grows off more slowly extending the thrips susceptible window. Rapidly growing seedlings are more tolerant to thrips feeding and the thrips susceptible window is smaller. Seedlings are most susceptible to thrips during early developmental stages (1-2 leaf) and become more tolerant as they develop. Economic damage from seedling thrips is unlikely once seedlings attain 5 true leaves and are growing rapidly.

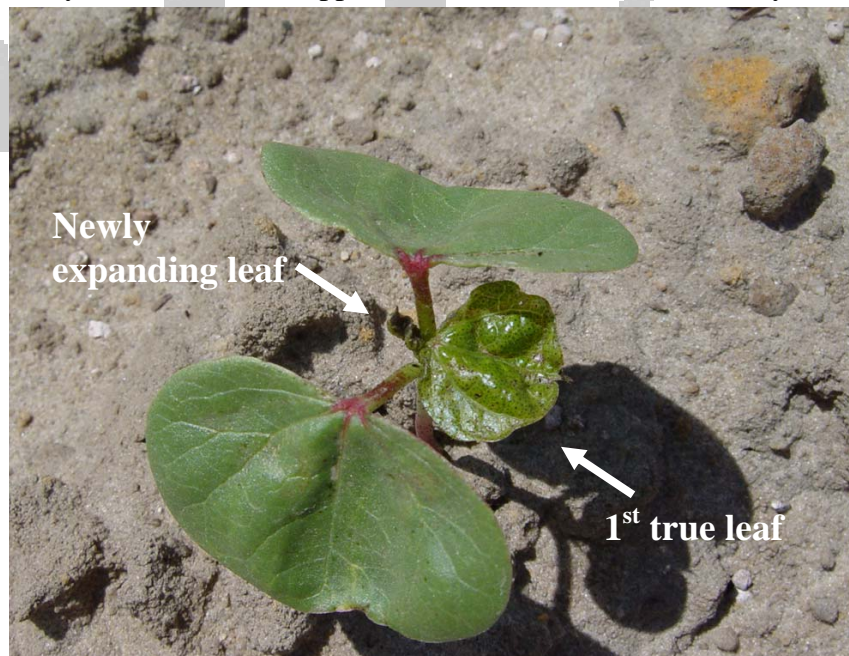
Seedlings should be monitored for thrips and other seedling pests even if a preventive insecticide was used at planting. Foliar sprays may be needed if conditions are not conducive for plant uptake of the insecticide or if unusually high thrips infestations occur. In some areas heavy rainfall has occurred which may have leached the insecticide from the root zone, in others soil moisture may have dropped below the treated zone. The established threshold for thrips is 2-3 thrips per plant. To sample thrips, randomly pull seedlings and beat them against a stiff sheet of

cardboard or a container covered with hardware cloth to dislodge the thrips. Sample multiple plants at multiple locations per field. Supplemental treatments are especially needed if threshold numbers of immature thrips (cream colored and wingless) are observed. The presence of immature thrips infesting seedlings suggests that the preventive insecticide is no longer active. The use of a hand lens will aid in recognizing immature thrips.



Prior to the development of the terminal bud, thrips will feed on the underside of cotyledon leaves. The lower surface of the cotyledon leaves will appear “scratched” and have a silvery or shiny appearance.

When monitoring thrips injury, pay close attention to newly expanding leaves. Thrips feed on developing leaves in the terminal bud and injury becomes apparent as leaves begin to expand. Note that in the picture to the right the first true leaf shows moderate thrips injury. However, the newly expanding leaf is severely damaged (crinkled and black on the margins).



COTTON SCOUT SCHOOL
June 8, 2009
Tifton Campus Conference Center
Tifton, Georgia

9:00 WELCOME

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

9:05 COTTON GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT

Glen Harris - Extension Agronomist

Phillip Roberts - Extension Entomologist

9:30 INSECT SCOUTING
PROCEDURES

John Ruberson – Research Entomologist

9:40 LARVAL INSECT PESTS

Mike Toews – Research Entomologist

10:10 - 10:20 BREAK

10:25 BUG PESTS

10:55 NATURAL CONTROLS

11:15 SAFETY

11:35 FIELD TRIP

12:30 ADJOURN - Have a safe trip home

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COTTON SCOUT SCHOOL
June 18, 2009
Southeast Research and Education Center
Midville, Georgia

	PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
9:00 WELCOME	
9:05 COTTON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT	<i>Peyton Sapp</i> - Burke County Extension
9:30 INSECT SCOUTING PROCEDURES	<i>Anthony Black</i> - SEREC Superintendent
9:40 LARVAL INSECT PESTS	<i>Phillip Roberts</i> - Extension Entomologist
10:10 - 10:20 BREAK	<i>Jared Whitaker</i> - Extension Agronomist
10:25 BUG PESTS	
10:55 NATURAL CONTROLS	The Cooperative Extension Service, The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences offers educational programs, assistance, and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age sex, or handicap status.
11:15 SAFETY	An Equal Opportunity Employer
11:35 FIELD TRIP	
12:30 ADJOURN - Have a safe trip home	

INSECT UPDATES: Check the **Cotton Insect Hotline (1-800-851-2847)** for updates on current insect conditions. The Cotton Pest Management Newsletter and additional cotton production information is also posted on the UGA Cotton Homepage at: <http://www.ugacotton.com>

Sincerely,

Phillip Roberts
Extension Entomologist

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